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"SAI ON" DISASTER FINDINGS

"Reprehensible Practice" In Cargo Loading

Recommendations Of Court

That the system used in loading the vessel and berthing the passengers was a "reprehensible practice," that fire patrols should be instituted and clear spaces provided for unberthed passengers separate from cargo, were among the findings of the Marine Court inquiring into the "Sai On" disaster.

In the course of its findings the Court stated that while there had been some infringement of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance regulations, they were insufficient to justify a charge of wrongful act or wilful default of the Master of the vessel.

The full text of the findings follows:—

We find that the Registered British River Steamer "Sai On" which was built in 1924 and owned by the Tung On S.S. Company, Ltd., arrived in the Port of Victoria about Noon on the 2nd February, 1947, and berthed alongside the west side of the pier known as the Tung On Wharf where she lay starboard side to.

There is no doubt in our minds that she was properly equipped and manned and stored for the forthcoming voyage and that Robert Wherry was the Master of the vessel.

The "Sai On" was due to sail for Canton at 6.0 a.m. on the 4th February, 1947, and all loading of cargo was completed about Midnight on the 3rd—4th February, 1947.

Although a few passengers could have embarked the previous evening, it can be accepted that general embarkation did not commence until about 3.0 a.m. on the 4th February, 1947.

The Master estimated the number of passengers, prospective passengers and friends on board at the time of the casualty to be about 200, and we have no reason

WARMER INSIDE THE FRIG.

London, Feb. 25. Frank H. Fisher, managing editor of British United Press, reported today: "This is no exaggeration. After last night's frost the warmest place in my kitchen was inside the refrigerator. Liquids inside had not frozen. Liquids outside had."—United Press.

R.A.F. HAVE "SORT OF" SYNDICATE

London, Feb. 24. Reference was made at a London court today to the existence of a "sort of syndicate" when Flight Lieutenant John Macdonald, of the New Zealand Royal Air Force, was summoned for being knowingly concerned in carrying 2,103 metal watch bracelets made in America and Canton and alleged to have been brought by air from Singapore.

A second summons accused him of carrying watch bracelets with intent to defraud revenue of the Purchase Tax. The penalties to which the defendant is liable on each summons were stated to amount to \$5,848.

Detective Sergeant Gerrard of New Scotland Yard, said that on February 8 he saw the defendant take two cases from a taxi into a jeweller's shop. He followed the defendant in and asked what the bags contained. The defendant said: "They are not stolen or anything like that. I brought them from Singapore by air. There are others in it, but I do not want to give them away."

Asked if customs duty had been paid he replied: "No, that is the trouble. It is the customs people that I am worried about."

He seemed to be shielding someone, added the officer, but he definitely said that he had brought them from Singapore and not someone else.

Detective Sergeant Marchant, of New Scotland Yard, gave corroborative evidence, and said that the defendant remarked to him: "You know what it is. The boys like to make a bit over the side."

The sergeant in cross-examination said: "Oh yes, there are others in it. I have no doubt."—Reuter.

What Food Parcels Mean To Britain

(By Margaret Bradbury)

More than 2,500 gift food parcels were sent from Hong Kong to England in the last two months by relatives and friends of families in the United Kingdom according to a post office official here yesterday, who said that this figure averaged only one parcel per eight persons among the European population.

As day by day letters arrive full of overflowing with goods imported from the U.S.A., Australia and England from England they must send goods they so badly need themselves or face economic difficulties.

No one in Britain grudges people abroad their many luxuries but it must be galling to hear of cities overseas where, although they were affected also to a great extent by the war, there are non-necessities and clothing and food in abundance.

Here then are reasons why Hong Kong should send more food parcels to people at home who are in great need of the small extras that cost comparatively little in the stores here. The maximum weight restriction imposed by the post office authorities have now been lifted from seven pounds to 22 pounds. That in itself may serve as a hint.

So far the weather front shows no signs of changing for the better. In their homes the people sit before miserably small coal fires or half lit gas and electric stoves. Their power supplies for cooking are cut off for certain periods of the day, their bath water is cold or lukewarm because of lack of heating, and the clothing coupon rationing still exists.

And now they are faced with a further cut in the meagre meat and sweet ration, and the factories that turn out inadequate supplies of cigarettes are to reduce even the present number because of the recent coal shortage.

Travellers who arrive in Hong Kong from England spend at least a week absorbing an atmosphere of plenty which they had almost forgotten existed also in England before the war. Our shops are

Thuds Preceded Explosion

Southend, Feb. 25. A violent explosion caused by a broken gas main levelled two Southend houses early today killing a 60-year-old woman and injuring five others.

Firemen are searching the debris for other possible victims. The explosion broke windows on other houses along the street and shook the entire seaside town.

Occupants of the houses said they heard strange thuds shortly before the explosion and both houses containing four flats "fell like a pack of cards." The houses were flattened as if they had received a direct bomb hit.

One occupant, feeling faint from gas, was on her way for medical attention when she was blown up by the explosion.

United Press.

One-Shoe Murder

Manchester, Feb. 25. Sixteen-year-old farmhand Joseph Gibson appeared before a Juvenile Court today charged with the "One Shoe Murder" of Miss Sheila Gowrie, aged 10, last January.

The youth's alleged statement said: "She started giving cheek and insulting me. I took off my belt and said I am going to hit her. I don't know what came over me. Then I was putting my belt on and she was dead."

Sheila's strangled body with one shoe missing was found in a passage behind her Manchester house on Jan. 22. She was last seen alive two days before when her mother sent her on an errand.—United Press.

MEAT ALARM

London, Feb. 25. Britain has appealed to the Argentine to rush shipments of meat to avert a further cut in the present meagre ration.

A Ministry of Food spokesman said that an urgent request for expedited shipments had been made through the Argentine Embassy because the meat supply is "very tight."—Associated Press.

mines and at many industrial plants.

What worried Britons most was the growing scarcity of foodstuffs on the shelves. There is no serious shortage yet but there might be if the demand on transport to move coal does not ease soon.—United Press.

First Sunshine

Berlin, Feb. 24. Sunshine poured down on Europe's shivering millions today from Berlin to Moscow for the first time in weeks, but it did not budge the thermometer very far above freezing.

Moscow backed in a "first wave" of the mercury, rising to 10° above zero, but the Soviet League of Nations said the weather was still too cold for the people.

The situation in Amritsar was explosive. British troops patrolled the streets of the ancient city which is the holy place of the Sikhs who are sickly provoked into clashes with the Moslems. The demonstrators marked the end of the first month of the Moslem League's attack on the British.

MAJOR RAIL DISASTER

Nearly 200 Killed In Derailment

Komagawa, Feb. 25. At least 178 Japanese were killed and probably 350 injured in one of the worst railway disasters in Japan's history today when four cars of a six-car steam train jumped the track here and plunged down a 30-foot embankment. Unofficial reports said a coupling between the second and third cars gave way as the train rounded a gentle downhill curve. The remaining four cars dove down the bank into a wheat field.

The engineer drove to the next station on a branch line before he found out he had lost a major portion of his train.

Another report said the rail had spread on the curve but this could not be confirmed officially.

The Kyoto News Agency said the accident was the worst in the history of the Japanese government-owned railroads and the scene at the site of the disaster seemed to bear out this pronouncement.

Four small wooden cars jammed with 200 persons each—were strewn in a bloodstained splintered mass of wreckage for 200 yards.

More than 350 other persons were injured. Some of these dazed-eyed, wounded men and women wandered aimlessly around the area while others were rushed to nearby overburdened hospitals.

Japanese railway officials expressed a fear the death toll might rise as more than 70 victims still alive were reported to be in a critical condition following the wreck this morning when four cars of the speeding train shot off a 30-foot embankment at a sharp curve near here.

(Continued on Page 8 Col. 5)

GANDHI SATISFIED

Chennai, East Bengal, Feb. 24. Gandhi today studied newspaper accounts of the Attlee statement on India and British and foreign reactions, but made no comment.

Some close to Gandhi believe he is taking the statement at face value, until proved otherwise.—United Press.

Tax On Taxi-Dancers

A Bill to raise revenue by the imposition of a tax of 10 per cent in respect of payment for the services of dancing partners, and a tax of 10 per cent on food sold and consumed in cabarets, is to be introduced at Legislative Council's meeting tomorrow.

Clause 5 of the Bill permits the Legislative Council by resolution to increase, decrease, suspend or vary such tax. The word "suspend" has been used in preference to the word "abolish" which occurs in Section 3 (2) of the Entertainment Tax Ordinance, 1920, for the reason that it is envisaged that, whilst it may not be desirable to abolish the tax altogether, it may be convenient in certain circumstances to allow the Legislative Council to grant/such exemptions from the operation of the Ordinance as it thinks fit.

Clause 6 of the Bill provides for the method of payment for the services of dancing partners and denigration that the tax has been paid.

A Deterrent

Clause 9 (2) gives a Magistrate discretion to suspend or revoke a licence. It is considered that this power would afford an effective deterrent against evasion of the tax.

The hire of dancing partners in public dance-halls is ordinarily entrusted to an employee. Evasions of the tax therefore would usually be due to the acts or omissions of such employee. In the circumstances it seems essential to include in the Bill the provisions of Clauses 10 and 11. Clause 10 has been inserted to safeguard compliance with the Ordinance in the event that a public dance-hall be owned by a limited company. Clause 11 is considered necessary to ensure that certain offences which may be committed by proprietors of dance-halls.

Rows Of Bodies

A few yards from the wreckage, in a small field in which the first sprouts of wheat were appearing, lay rows of bodies of men, women and children. A stooped, impassive old man seeking one of his family who had been on the train, passed solemnly along the rows of dead, lifting clothes or mats which had been thrown over the faces. A middle-aged woman stood silently weeping at one end of the long rows of dead. She had been riding in the first car behind the engine when the accident occurred. Her husband and family were in one of the cars which leaped the track.—Associated Press.

More Deaths?

United Press Staff—correspondents Earnest Hobrecht and Ian Matsu, who visited the scene of the disaster at Hachioji, later, gave the following eyewitness account of rescue work:

They lined the dead up in two rows in a wheat field near here today and counted 178

H.K. Civil Servants' Salaries

London, Feb. 24. Mr. Ivor Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary for the Colonies, replying to an inquiry whether a commission would be appointed to inquire into the adequacy of salaries paid to Government servants in Hongkong, said the Colonial Secretary had agreed to the appointment of a salaries commission, whose composition would be announced as soon as possible.

Mr. Thomas made no specific reply to the second part of the question by Colonial Secretary Williams (Lab.)—asking how such salaries compared with the remuneration received by persons employed by professional and commercial firms in Hongkong.

Replying to another question by Mr. Williams, Mr. Thomas said the appointment to Hongkong of a service of an officer with trade union experience in this country had been approved and the Colonial Secretary hoped that a suitable candidate would be selected shortly.—Reuter.

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GRAND LIQUEUR



Austerity For Seven Years?

San Francisco, Feb. 25. The people of England can expect to practice self-denial for at least seven more years, Sir Robert Dalton, United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Australia, said.

He declared that England's only salvation in international trade would be to increase production to the point where she can pay for her imports with her exports. Now, he said, as much production as possible must be diverted into exports—meaning the people of England can get little of what they are producing.

England still is heavily deficit on overseas trading accounts, he said, although developments were better last year than had been expected. "Great Britain will still have considerable trade deficit at the end of this year unless some miracle occurs that can raise production," he said.

Sir Robert is here en route to Geneva for the formation of an international trade organization.—Associated Press.

THE WEATHER

An anticyclone covering N. China and Manchuria is intensifying. Pressure is also high S. of the Ryukyus. A weak trough lies across Japan and pressure remains low over the equatorial regions.

Today's Forecast—Vastly cloudy, E. direction predominating. Weather fair or clear with patches of morning fog or haze.

Yesterday's Weather—

Maximum 73°; Min. 54°; Rainfall 0.00 in.

Readings at 10 a.m.—

Bar at mean sea level 30.14 in.

Rel. Humidity 65% at 10 a.m.

Dew Point 55° at 10 a.m.

Wind Direction E. by N. at 10 a.m.

Wind Force 5 at 10 a.m.

Capetown, Feb. 24. An African wind found its way to the Cape. Yesterday's rain was followed by a heavy shower of rain. The temperature was 74° at 10 a.m. and 72° at 4 p.m. The wind was from the east and the sea was calm.

Britain Awaiting The Great Thaw

London, Feb. 25. A weak and watery sun beamed on most of England today and London's temperature soared to 36 degrees Fahrenheit but the Air Ministry could not say officially whether the end of Britain's crippling cold wave was in sight.

The "Great Thaw" was 600 miles away. Out in the Atlantic a "deep depression" was slowly moving toward England. But experts said it is an "anti-cyclone" got in the way of the depression the thaw would begin in Iceland. Instead of Hampton Heath.

"A change is almost certain in a day or two," a spokesman at the Air Ministry, which operates Britain's Weather Bureau, said, "and it is encouraging to know that something is going to happen even if we don't know what it is."

Britons waited for that break. They skidded on their snow-covered streets in search of coal. They waited for the thaw.

Stocks Growing

They huddled in their homes because power cuts still were effective in most parts of the country five hours a day and there is little prospect of London getting the industrial power ahead before the middle of the end of the next week.

But, mostly, they scanned the sky and made guesses about the "unusual light" of the sun or listened intently for hissing of icebergs that would mean their frozen ships would be free.

Coal stocks were low. The Government said it was not sure how long the situation would last.



St. David's Day Programme

In common with other National Societies of Hong Kong, St. David's Society (Cymdeithas Dewi Sant) have planned a programme for the celebration of their National Day, St. David's Day, on Saturday, March 1st.

At a General Meeting of the members, a Working Committee was appointed consisting of: President, Mr. E. I. Wynne-Jones; Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Jones; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. G. A. G. Fisher; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. M. Wynne-Jones and the Rev. A. Davies, R.N. and Mrs. Hooper.

The following programme has been adopted and it is hoped that as many as possible of the members of the Society and their friends would attend.

(a) A wreath in memory of Welshmen who lost their lives during the second world war, will be laid on the Cenotaph at 8.30 a.m.

(b) A Noddy Llawen will be held in the hall of St. Joseph's College (Forces Educational Centre), Kennedy Road, at 7.30 p.m. The entertainment will consist of a short play by J. O. Francis, "Birds of a Feather," Welsh songs by a Quartet and a Welsh Choir, together with community singing. A buffet supper will also be provided.

It is particularly requested that members should inform the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. M. Wynne-Jones, c/o G.E.O. not later than stating how many tickets they require.

(c) Arrangements have been made for the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, March 2nd at St. John's Cathedral to be partly Welsh. The Dean, the very Rev. A. P. Rose, has also kindly consented to some of the hymn tunes being favourite Welsh hymn tunes. It is particularly hoped that as many Welsh people as possible will attend this service.

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ALMOST MIRACULOUS FEAT Incredible Swim Of Wounded Man

When Inspector Carruthers, of Ping Shan Police Station, and his witnesses, revealed the details of the cold-blooded brutal murder of two men and the attempted murder of a third, they also told the story of an "almost miraculous" feat by Chan Tak-hing, the third victim, who despite three bullet wounds swam for four hours with his hands tied behind his back and after a brief rest, walked for another three or four hours across hills, to make a report to the Police.

The alleged perpetrators were Chan Yui-shu alias Ho Lan-chung, Cheuk Chau, Cheung Kee-cheong, Liu Mun, Li Yau and Mak Kau, alias Mak Kam-shing, the first named of whom appeared before Mr. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday charged with the murder of Hui Chi and Hui Hung, and the attempted murder of Chan Tak-hing, in Deep Bay on Oct. 12 last.

Outlining the case, the Crown alleged that some time between 8 and 9 p.m. on Oct. 12 at Lau Pau Shan village, on the British shore of Deep Bay, Hui Chi, Hui Hung and Chan Tak-hing were seized and bound by a gang of seven or eight men. They were put aboard a rowing boat and taken out to sea to a part of Deep Bay roughly between the British and Chinese shores. The anchor was dropped, the three victims shot and their bodies thrown into the sea.

Swimmer Shot
One sank immediately, but the other two managed to keep afloat and swim away. So determined were the murderers

that their victims should not escape that the boat roved in pursuit. When the boat was near one of the swimmers the pursuers opened fire with pistols and shot him until he sank.

The third man, whom the murderers assumed to be dead, managed to swim for four hours, although his arms were tied behind his back and despite the fact that he was suffering from three bullet wounds, at about 2 a.m. he landed in the vicinity of a beach called Pak Nai, a few miles west of Lau Pau Shan. Here, he received a change of clothing from the inmates of a solitary wooden hut and they proceeded to trek over the hills to Ping Shan Police Station, arriving at about 6 a.m. exhausted.

As a result, a Police party raided Lau Pau Shan village, and a number of men were arrested, and witnesses collected.

Four of the alleged murderers, Cheuk Chau, Cheung Kee-cheong, Liu Mun and Li Yau, were arraigned before the District Officer at Tai Po on Oct. 29 on the capital charge. On Dec. 9, while the trial of the other four was in progress, Mak Kau was arrested in Lau Pau Shan village, resulting in the re-trial of the first four. On Feb. 11, the five men were committed to stand trial at the Sessions by the District Officer.

New Arrest
At about 3.30 p.m. on Feb. 13, D.S. Leung Shun arrested Chan Yui-shu, the present accused, in Des Voeux Road West and took him to Ping Shan.

At an identification parade the following day, he was identified by two of the three boatmen as having been aboard the boat from start to finish, and, further, as being one of the armed men who went to their quarters at the Yu Wo Tong oyster firm in Lau Pau Shan village on the night in question and ordered them, at pistol point, to row the boat for them.

Insp. Carruthers said that the defendant came from the same village as the boatmen and known to them for from between 10 and 20 years.

Chan Lo-chai, one of the witnesses, declared that, after the second man had been shot in the water, he told the pursuers to stop searching for the third man as he must be already dead.

Hearing will be continued this morning.

Punished Gendarmes For Offences

During his term as Officer Commanding the Eastern Kowloon H.Q. at Happy Valley he had punished three of his subordinates for offences against prisoners in custody, Captain Shibata Shigeo, who spent his second day in the witness-box at No. 5 War Crimes Court yesterday, stated under cross-examination by the Prosecution Officer, Major R. C. Lal.

Two of the three offenders were court-martialled, Shibata said, one being a Pte. Okunishi, who was punished for beating Murphy and received a two-year prison term.

A Formosan interpreter named Shum Ming-king was also court-martialled and sentenced to 2½ years' imprisonment for intimidating prisoners at the Gendarmerie. The third man, a Sgt.-Major Tsoboi, was dealt with separately.

Shibata said that prisoners were kept for interrogation for periods ranging from two hours to two months. Only two or three per cent. of the more important prisoners were kept for interrogation for a long period.

He had never heard of his co-accused, Sgt.-Major Opa, beating prisoners, Shibata said, and he did not think Opa was always given all the details of prisoners were graded according to the nature of their offences and the physical condition of the prisoners.

Details of interrogations were given him by his subordinates, but he did not think he was always given all the details of prisoners were graded according to the nature of their offences and the physical condition of the prisoners.

He was always given all the details of prisoners were graded according to the nature of their offences and the physical condition of the prisoners.

He was always given all the details of prisoners were graded according to the nature of their offences and the physical condition of the prisoners.

PROBATION AGE EXTENDED

Power to Magistrates to grant probation to adolescent offenders under 21, whom they are now reluctantly compelled to send to prison, is contained in an ordinance to amend the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932, which will have its first reading in Legislative Council tomorrow. Under the present ordinance the system of probation applies only to offenders under 16.

Customs Pass Accident

This is a very serious charge. As a result of your carelessness a man has died. You must be punished. Mr. Latimer, at Kowloon, when he fined Choi Him a total of \$200 on charges of driving without due care and caution and driving a lorry without the permission of the licensee. S/I Browne of the Traffic Department stated that accused was driving a Land Transport lorry, No. K055, along Customs Pass Road on Feb. 24 when, as the result of a turn to the right, the lorry ran over the embankment. One of the three Chinese who were on the vehicle was thrown out and sustained injuries from which he died.

Imposing a fine of \$150, or six weeks hard labour, on the first count, and \$50 or two weeks on the second, His Worship also recommended that defendant's licence be suspended for six months.

Information Wanted

Sigmn. Chow Gim, Canadian Army, would be grateful for any information regarding his wife, Eva Gum Fong Chow, and his son, Kenneth Chow, from whom he has had no word since November 1941.

Mrs. Chow was born in Toronto on Mar. 25, 1919, and was married in Hong Kong on Dec. 20, 1935. Their son was born on Sept. 6, 1936, at the Kowloon Hospital.

Any information should be sent to Major G.B. Puddlecombe, K.C., head of the Canadian War Crimes Liaison Detachment, Hong Kong, Telephone No. 34048.

G.B.S. PEAY TONIGHT

Opening tonight at 7.30 p.m. in the Star Theatre is Bernard Shaw's Heartbreak House presented by the Hong Kong Stage Club; the play will be showing for four nights only.

Heartbreak House—a play with an abundance of wit and humour—is proclaimed by Shaw himself as his best work and should prove with the aid of the skilled players of the Hong Kong Stage Club, to be excellent entertainment.

Present at tonight's opening will be H.E. The Governor and Lady Young.

H.K. Fight Against Disease

The Medical authorities are planning to hold a health campaign week beginning March 31st in an effort to combat disease in the Colony.

This will be the first general health campaign to be held in Hong Kong.

It is believed that a maximum figure of \$50,000 has been allotted by the Government for anti-disease propaganda to be organised in the Colony during this year.

Attacking the health problem under the heading of "The Menace of War, Flu, Venereal Disease, Spitting, Urinating and Defecating in the Streets," the authorities plan to place numerous posters on public exhibition together with short films in the local cinemas, and radio talks.

MENACES CHARGE

On the application of DSI Dowman, Mr. Latimer yesterday fixed Wednesday, March 6, for hearing of the charge of demanding money with menaces against Wan Kwok-yung, 25, married woman. Accused is alleged to have demanded with menaces the sum of \$500 from Li Chi-ching and Lo Li-tung on Jan. 21 at Kowloon.

After corroborative evidence had been given by the wireless operator and Bell, hearing was adjourned to this morning at 10.30 a.m. for the Chief Officer of the "Kowloon" to be called. Li was remanded in Police custody.

Q.M. On Assault Charge

How the quartermaster drew his sailor's knife when the Third Officer ordered him to his post was described to Comdr. Ryder in the Marine Court yesterday when Li Hung-ching, quartermaster of the "Kowloon" in harbour was charged with assault and disobeying a lawful command.

John Leslie Wilson, the Third Officer, was in Court as complainant. He said on the morning of Feb. 24, Li was absent from his post and he found him in his quarters. When ordered to go on duty he refused and used abusive language. In the company of the ship's wireless operator, K.L. Jones, and another officer, Peter Bell, Wilson again went to Li's quarters. He had with him a pair of handcuffs. At the sight of the handcuffs Li got up and drew from his sheath a sailor's knife. The party retreated and shut the door, and the wireless operator signalled the Police, who later took Li into custody.

After corroborative evidence had been given by the wireless operator and Bell, hearing was adjourned to this morning at 10.30 a.m. for the Chief Officer of the "Kowloon" to be called. Li was remanded in Police custody.

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Change of Telephone Numbers

As from March 1, 1947.

Accounts Dept.	
General Import Dept.	
Motor Department (Sales)	31146
Engineering Department	
Export Department	
Insurance Department	
Shipping Department	

The following Main Office Numbers remain unchanged—

Insurance Department (Chinese)	25727
Compradore	22935

On Sundays, Holidays and after office hours

Shipping Department	31147
Insurance Department	31148
General Import Dept.	31149
Motor Department (Sales)	31140



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Money Market

Chinese National Currency was again stationary yesterday at 33½ cents for futures and 46 cents for spot (for CN\$1,000).

Gold opened at \$260 a tael, and closed at the same rate. It fluctuated between \$254.25 and \$283 in the course of the day.

Plaques, after a weak opening at \$9.55 per 100, later dropping to \$9.40, made a slight rally in the afternoon and closed at \$9.80.

U.S. dollars had buyers at \$47.6, Sterling at \$14.90 and Australian pounds at \$12.63.

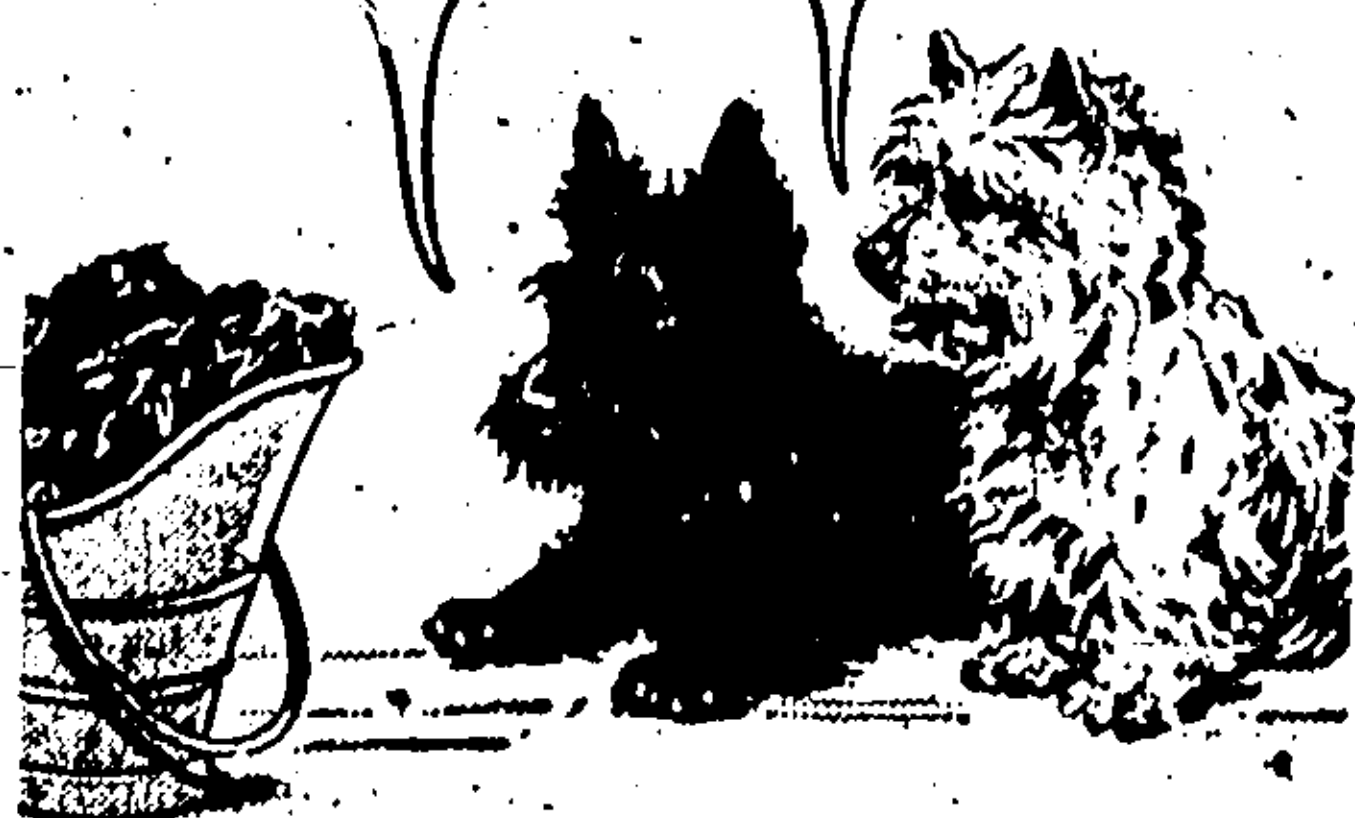
SALVATION ARMY APPEAL

Following is the latest list of donations to the Annual Appeal of the Salvation Army previously acknowledged: \$5,411.20, Mr. Hobbs \$10.00, Mercantile Bank of India \$50.00, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hansen \$50.00, Mr. and Mrs. Eastman \$50.00, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Campbell \$50.00, Mr. Robert Ho Tung \$100.00, J. D. Hunter \$25.00, M. A. Da Silva \$50.00, J. Reynolds \$20.00, Shewan Tomes \$100.00, Mr. Johnstone \$50.00, Humphrey and Co. \$50.00, F. D. Humphrey and Son \$50.00, S. S. Pavi and Sons \$50.00, S. C. Church \$100.00. Total: \$9,804.20.

Shortly after 3.30 yesterday afternoon, an unidentified Chinese woman collapsed outside No. 2 Mrs. Eastman's shop, which is situated at the junction of the main road and the side road leading to the Chinese Cemetery. The woman was taken to the hospital and is now recovering.

"NATURE TOOK YEARS TO PRODUCE THAT COAL."

"YES, AND NATURE TOOK YEARS TO PRODUCE 'BLACK & WHITE' WHISKY."



By Appointment to H.M. King George VI James Buchanan & Co. Ltd. Scotch Whisky Distillers.

"BLACK & WHITE" SCOTCH WHISKY

How and Where to Use SCOTCH CELLULOSE TAPE

1. Slide metal drum into roll and place in dispenser with adhesive side of tape down against roller.

2. Place finger under tape between roller and roll.

3. Pull desired length forward and forward, without scraping tape against roller.

4. Then pull downwards and sideways against roller.



DESK
DISPENSER
FOR ALL
OFFICES
STORES
BANKS
HOMES
ETC.

OBTAINABLE AT:-

WING ON CO., LTD.
SINCERE CO., LTD.
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COLONIAL DISPENSARY
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CHE SAN STATIONERY

DRAGON SEED CO.
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TAI WO COMPADORE
MAN YING CO.
YEE HING CO.

AND OTHER LEADING STORES

Sole Agents:- **TONLEY & CO.,**

WING ON BANK BLDG., 3rd Floor. Tel. 23717

BRITANNIA BATTERIES LTD.

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Alkaline Storage batteries

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REISS, BRADLEY & CO., LTD.

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2 Queen's Rd. C., Hong Kong. Telephone 28006/7. HONGKONG. CLR

INDIAN CHANGES PLEA: GETS SEVEN YEARS

After the Crown had presented 12 of its 24 witnesses at Monday's trial, Mohammed Yussuf Shah, pre-war Police Lance-Sergeant, at the resumed hearing yesterday changed his plea of not guilty to one of guilty to all 23 counts laid against him under the 1940 Defence Regulations.

Shah was sentenced to seven years' hard labour by Mr. Justice T. J. Gould at the Criminal Sessions.

Passing sentence, His Lordship told accused that his counsel had said everything possible on his behalf and that if it were not for his meritorious services to prisoners of the Japanese whilst he was a guard, the sentence would have been much heavier.

Shah was sentenced to seven years on the first count; five years on the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 22nd; two years on the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, 11th, 12th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 23rd; and six months on the second count. All sentences are to run concurrently.

Mr. A. J. Clifford, Crown Counsel, assisted by ASP O'Donnovan, prosecuted. Mr. Leo d'Almeida, instructed by Mr. G. S. Hughes Jones, represented Shah. Before entering a plea for mitigation, Mr. d'Almeida called nine witnesses and read a letter by Dr. Selwyn-Clarke to testify to accused's good character and meritorious service to prisoners held by the Japanese at the Supreme Court cells, (former Japanese General Headquarters Headquarters) whilst accused was a guard there. Inspector S. C. Smith said accused worked under him at Sha-tau-ko before the war and in his opinion was trustworthy and of good character.

Inspector T. G. Mackay stated accused also worked under him before the war, was a good worker, and had earned 10 medals for outstanding services in a T.M. period. Witness said he formed a very favourable opinion of accused.

Rev. Father P. J. Joy said that while detained at the Supreme Court between May and August, 1943, accused was a guard and showed extraordinary friendship to him and other prisoners. Witness said he knew accused and helped a great many people there and undertook very grave risks to help prisoners.

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NEW POST FOR CHIANG

Shanghai, Feb. 25. The Chinese Army organ, "Peace Daily," said that Chiang Kai-shek will take over the presidency of the Executive Yuan with General Chang Chun as Vice-President when Government reorganisation takes place after the plenary session of the Kuomintang's Central Executive Committee, slated for March 15.—United Press.

CATHOLIC CENTRE RECEPTION

There was a large attendance at the Catholic Centre at a reception last evening in honour of His Excellency Mgr. Riberti, Apostolic Internuncio to China. The Rev. Father Riganti (deceased) an address of welcome, to which Mgr. Riberti replied.

BY ORDER
Of the Director of Disposals
Far Eastern Area
(M.O.S.)

1. THE BRITISH STORES DISPOSAL BOARD (HONG KONG) is authorised to receive TENDERS for the purchase from H.M. Dockyard, Hong Kong, and other Naval Establishments in Hong Kong and Kowloon of:-

(a) SCRAP IRON AND STEEL
(b) FIREWOOD

2. Tenders will be for the purchase of either (a) and/or (b) in (1) above quantities as they become available weekly over a period of 3 (Three) months commencing 1st March, 1947.

3. Tenders must be deposited with the Board in sealed packets and marked "Tenders for Scrap Iron and Steel and/or Firewood" and addressed to the Chairman.

4. Closing date for Tender:-12 Noon, Saturday, 1st March, 1947.

5. Further details and conditions of Contract may be had on application to the British Stores Disposal Board (Hong Kong), Victoria Barracks (Entrance 50, yards west of Queen's Road Entrance to Barracks).

6. The Chairman of the British Stores Disposal Board (Hong Kong) does not bind himself to accept the highest or any Tender.

WALTER M. WEINBERGER, Chairman, BRITISH STORES DISPOSAL BOARD, Hong Kong.

NOTICE
TAKE NOTICE that by a deed poll dated the 25th day of February, 1947, I, Charles George Gray of No. 1, Shan Kwong Road, Victoria in the Colony of Hong Kong, Merchant, a natural-born British Subject, renounced and abandoned the surname of Sceluna.

DATED the 25th day of February 1947.

CHARLES GEORGE GRAY formerly known as Charles George Sceluna.

Chinese Optical Co. OPTICIAN 67 QUEEN'S ROAD C.

NOTICE TO MARINERS NO. 5 OF 1947
HONG KONG HARBOUR. SUBMERGED OBSTRUCTION.

POSITION: 018, 5 Cables from Kellie Island Flag Staff.

DETAILS: The submerged obstruction within half a cable of the above position, referred to in Notice to Mariners No. 62 of 1946, has been marked by a green painted unlighted can buoy.

REMARKS: There is approximately 22 feet of water over this obstruction at L.W.S.T. Vessels should keep well clear of this area.

Charts affected: 3279, 1459, E.110318.

Authority: Harbour Master.

Harbour Department, Hong Kong, 24th February, 1947.

J. JOLLY, Harbour Master.

LAMMERT BROS. Auctioneers.

HARBOUR DEPT.

It is hereby notified that sealed tenders, in triplicate for the purchase of the unserviceable Steam Launch "Kwoong Lee" will be received by the Chairman of the Tender Board, Public Works Department, until Noon on Monday, March 10, 1947.

The tender should be clearly marked "Tender for the purchase of the unserviceable launch 'Kwoong Lee'".

This launch is to be sold as she lies partially submerged off Causeway Bay. Permission to inspect and details of the specifications and condition may be obtained on application to the Superintending Engineer, Government Slipway, Yau-mai.

Particulars:-
Length — 75' 0"
Breadth — 16' 8"
Depth — 8' 0"

Tenders must be deposited at the Treasury, Prince's Building, the sum of \$500.- (Five Hundred Dollars), the receipt for which should be attached to the tender when submitted. This sum will be forfeited to the Hong Kong Government if the successful tenderer fails to complete the transaction. The deposit will be returned to unsuccessful tenderers.

The successful tenderer will be required to pay the purchase money to the Treasury within 48 hours of being advised of the acceptance of their tender.

Government does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender.

J. JOLLY, Harbour Master, Hongkong, 25th Feb., 1947.

NOTICE
It is notified for information that the existing restrictions on the export of foodstuffs by parcel post have been modified and the following regulations are substituted for the sending of Gift Parcels from Hong Kong.

"Unsolicited Gift Parcels will be permitted without export licence if

(a) gross weight of parcel does not exceed 22 lbs.;

(b) parcel is clearly marked "GIFT".

The contents of each parcel must be declared in detail.

The export of the following rationed commodities is strictly prohibited:-

Rice
Flour
Sugar
Butter
Sweetened Condensed Milk

E. I. WYNNE-JONES, Postmaster General, Hongkong, 25th Feb., 1947.

POLICE NOTICE
Traffic Arrangements during the demolition of the Japanese Memorial on Mount Cameron on WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1947, BETWEEN 4.15 P.M. AND 5.15 P.M.

1. Stubbs Road between Wanchai Gap and Magazine Gap.

2. Coombe Road between Wanchai Gap and Magazine Gap.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, Hongkong, 25th Feb., 1947.

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LAMMERT BROS. Auctioneers.

LAMMERT BROS.

Auctioneers, Surveyors and Appraisers, Pedder Building, Telephone No. 20224.

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received instructions from the Custodian of Property to sell by Public Auction on

Thursday the 27th Feb. 1947, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

at their Sales Rooms, Pedder Building, Basement:

387 LOTS OF MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, comprising:-

STORED AT KIN LEE GO-DOWN, WEST POINT:

Chests of Drawers, Tallboys, Sideboards, Wardrobes, Cabinets, Cupboards, Desks, Dressing Tables, Bedside Tables, Dining Tables, Extension Tables, Kitchen Tables, Settees, Armchairs, Chairs, Vienna Chairs, Stools, Benches, Ice Boxes, Water Coolers, Refrigerators, Hall Stands, Mirrors, Carpets, Cushions, Ornaments, Towel Racks, Safes, Etc., Etc.

STORED AT KWONG HIP LUNG SHIPYARD, SIAM-SHUIPO, KOWLOON.

Motor Boat, 3-cylinder Diesel Engine, Lubricating Oil.

STORED AT LAMMERT BROTHERS' AUCTION ROOMS, PEDDER BUILDING, BASEMENT.

Lacquer Vases, Flashlights, Ship's Telegraph, Cash Boxes, Adding Machine, Writing Pads, Silver Sweet Baskets, Sauce Boats, Napkin Rings, Dishes, Finger Bowl Holders, Salt Cellars, Pepper Castors, Mustard Pots, Forks, Spoons, Knives, Sugar Tongs, Etc., Spectacles, Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, Fountain Pens and Pencils, "Zenith" Radio, 7-Valves, Etc.

The above-mentioned articles will be open for inspection at their respective godowns on 25th and 26th February, 1947, between 10.00 a.m. and noon, and between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. Inspection Permits will be issued by the Undersigned at their Auction Rooms.

The Auction is subject to the Conditions of Sale published in the Hong Kong (British Military Administration) Gazette Volume 2, No. 12, of 9th March, 1946.

LAMMERT BROTHERS, Auctioneers.

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received instructions from the Custodian of Property to sell by Public Auction on

Thursday the 27th Feb. 1947 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

at their Sales Rooms, Pedder Building, Basement.

20 LOTS OF MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, comprising:-

Large Trailer with Pneumatic Tyres, Solid Tyre Wheels, Lathe Cones, Shaft Pulleys, Old Machines, Rolled Steel, Hand Wrench, Old Metal Windows, Small Oil Engine, Press, Metal Boxes and Old Refrigerator Cases, Lathe, about 12", with Long Gantry, Wood Lathe, Vertical Drilling Machines, Screwing Machines, Planer, Machine Parts, Hand Milling Machine, Grinding Machine, Scrap.

The above-mentioned articles will be open for inspection at the Government Trades School, Wanchai, on the 25th and 26th February, 1947, between 10.00 a.m. and noon, and between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. Inspection Permits will be issued by the Undersigned at their Auction Rooms.

The Auction is subject to the Conditions of Sale published in the Hong Kong (British Military Administration) Gazette Volume 2, No. 12, of 9th March, 1946.

LAMMERT BROTHERS, Auctioneers.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

20 WORDS - \$1.00 PER LINE. INSERION PREPAID. \$1 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL WORDS 10 CTS. PER WORD PER INSERTION.

Replies are awaiting at our offices for Nos. 212, 214, 218, 220, 221, 223, 229, 231, 240, 256, 260.

WANTED KNOWN

ENGLISH Lady visits hotels, houses, for shampoo/sets/manicure, etc. Write 4 Chatham Rd. Kowloon. Phone 58620.

POSITION WANTED

B.A. registered teacher, experienced in business, good in English, Maths, typing, book-keeping, office routine, seeks employment. Box 267, "China Mail."

POSITION VACANT

ACCOMMODATION required for British Aircraft Engineers. Quiet hotel, flats, rooms, with or without board desired. Apply Box No. 269 "China Mail."

CHINESE Engineering Salesman with good knowledge of English wanted by old established firm of importers. Apply stating experience and salary required to Box 271, "China Mail."

PREMISES WANTED

TWO or three room flats required. Furnished or unfurnished. Apply Box No. 270 "China Mail."

HONGKONG & HANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION

ORDINARY YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary Yearly General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Corporation will be held at the Head Office of the Corporation, 1 Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, on Friday the 28th day of March, 1947, at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving and considering the reports of the Directors and of the Auditors and the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1946, and for the election of Directors and the appointment of Auditors.

The Register of Shares of the Corporation will be closed from Monday, the 10th March to Friday the 28th March, 1947 (both days inclusive) during which period no transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board.
A. MORSE, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 20th Feb., 1947.

PUBLIC AUCTION

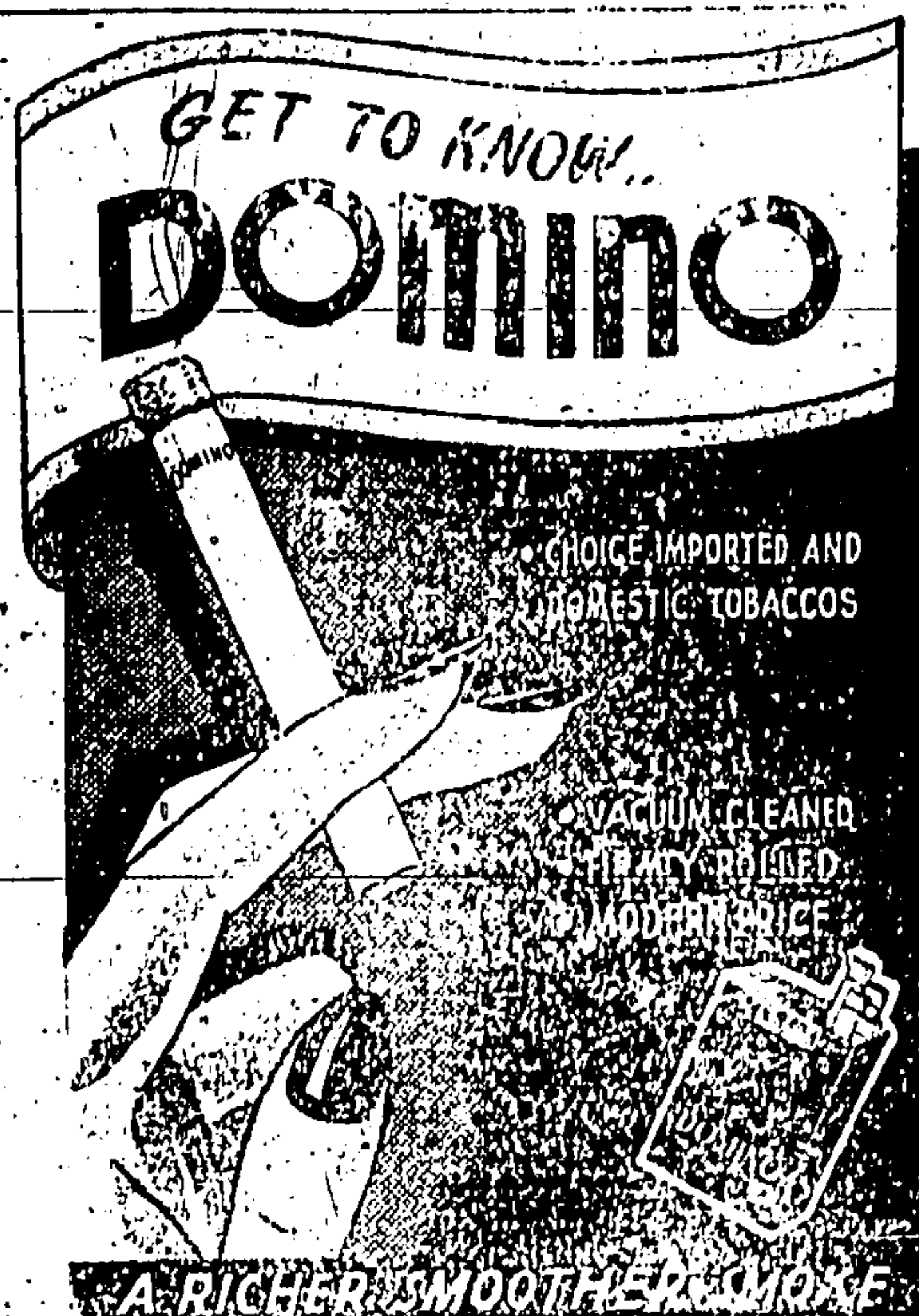
The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on

FRIDAY, the 28th FEB. 1947 commencing at 2.30 P.M.

at their Sales Rooms, No. 35 Hankow Road Kowloon.

A FINE COLLECTION OF VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE Comprising:-

Teakwood Dining Room Suite, Extension Dining Tables, Sideboards, Silver Cabinets, Dining Chairs, Small Tables, Tea Pys, Desks, Book Case, Wardrobes, Dressing Tables with Stools, Low-boy, Bedsteads,



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DOMESTIC TOBACCO
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Kowloon Sub. Agent: CHUNG SHUN HONG
371, Nathan Road. Tel. 58212
Main Sub. Agent: LEE WA TOBACCO CO.,
Rm. Cms De Ombra
Yun-nan Sub. Agent: SING WING CO.,
691-692 Jin Yee Road, Kowloon.

THE GLOUCESTER HOTEL

Eighth Floor... THE RESTAURANT

Timn \$5.00 Dinner \$8.00

DINNER DANCE & CABARET

each evening

presenting

THE NELSON SISTERS

JANET NODE

AND

GEORGE PARKS AND
HIS DANCE ORCHESTRA

Eighth Floor... COCKTAIL BAR

Eighth Floor... HARBOUR BAR

Ground Floor... GLOUCESTER LOUNGE

Open Daily, 8 a.m. to midnight.
Breakfasts, Morning Coffees,
Light Tiffin, Afternoon Teas, etc.

BANQUETING DEPARTMENT

Excellent Suites of rooms and Bars capable of
accommodating all types of functions from five to
five hundred people.

TEL. 2814 FOR ALL ENQUIRIES OR RESERVATIONS

FRANCE CUTS ITS LOSSES "No Justice In A Division Of Sacrifices"

Britain's Case On Corfu Mines

Lake Success, Feb. 24.
The United States tentatively backed the British charges that Albania illegally laid mines in the Corfu Channel but Russia backed Albania and asked the United Nations Security Council to drop the case.

The United States delegate, Herschel Johnson, told the Council that the evidence presented by Britain "seems convincing."

Johnson favoured the Australian proposal for a 3-nation sub-committee to examine the case and sift the conflicting evidence in the disaster which killed British seamen in the Corfu channel on October 22.

Russia's Andrei Gromyko rejected the Australian proposal and sided with Albania in charging Britain with violating Albanian territorial waters.

Gromyko called for Britain and Albania to settle their differences by direct negotiations.

An Albanian spokesman denied that his country sowed mines in the channel.—United Press.

New Premier's Radio Statement

Paris, Feb. 24.

M. Paul Ramadier, Prime Minister, announced a second price cut to be applied on Wednesday, in a radio address tonight.

The new five per cent cut will not be applied to wheat, metallurgical products, certain metals and alloys and to certain chemical products. Apart from these exceptions, the cut would apply to all commodities, even in cases where the selling price would be lower than the purchase price.

Calling on the people to accept the sacrifices implied in this policy, M. Ramadier said: "We know the second cut will be harder to bear than the first. It will not only cut into profits, but in many cases will make profits disappear altogether and even mean a real loss."

"This emergency measure seems hard, but it is necessary. Do not seek justice in all this. There is no more justice in a division of sacrifices than in cases of illness or death. We must accept the pressing evil in exchange for permanent good."

After describing the dangerous cycle of rising wages and prices, which existed in France in December before application of the first price cut by his predecessor, M. Leon Blum, M. Ramadier said: "The vigorous and sudden appeal of M. Blum snatched France from the brink of the abyss. Prices stopped their mad climb. We must once again cool our economy with the breath of price reduction, bitter and cold, but as healthy as the winter wind."

Explaining why the Government had chosen the present time for the second price cut, M.

WHITEWASH SPLASH

Tokyo, Feb. 25.
The "Mainichi," one of Tokyo's leading vernaculars, splashed the entire front page of its early editions today with Dr. Ichiro Kiyose's defence of Hideki Tojo and the other co-defendants in the Tokyo war crimes trial.
The "Mainichi's" headline on Kiyose's speech was "Japan acted in self-defence: had no intention to subdue world."—United Press.

United States Of Europe

Hamburg, Feb. 24.

Plans for a United States of Europe—recently proposed by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Winston Churchill—and the idea of "saving Europe through confederation" will be received with great interest by the German Christian Democrat Party, said Doctor Konrad Adenauer, chairman of the Christian Democrat Union in the British zone, today.

The European states of the Soviet Union should also belong to the European confederation proposed by Mr. Churchill, Dr. Adenauer said, adding: "Germany would be prepared to forego her rights as a nation under this new European order but the German people will not agree to the mutilation and tearing-up of its economy and territory."—Reuter.

CAPETOWN TRIAL

Capetown, Feb. 24.

Eight leading members of the South African Communist Party were committed for trial here today at the conclusion of a preparatory hearing of allegations of sedition and contraventions of the official Secrets Act.

Each was allowed bail of £200. The preparatory examination lasted 23 days. The allegations arose out of a strike of Africans which started in the reef mines on August 12 last year.—Reuter.

MOSLEM STAND

New Delhi, Feb. 24.

The newspaper "Dawn," reflecting the views of the Moslem League, said today that Mr. Attlee's declaration on quitting India was the "obituary" of the Constitutional Assembly and asserted that the League would continue to insist on an independent state for the Moslems.—United Press.

The 'Fighting Spirit' Duel Called Off

Rome, Feb. 24.

The scheduled Pacciardi-Benedetti duel was called off tonight with a "satisfactory understanding" but another potential duellist appeared on the scene.

Randolfo Pacciardi, 48, secretary of the Republican party, veteran of four successful duels, and the Monarchist leader, Tullio Benedetti, 50, settled their impending affair of swords with pens.

But Giovanni Artieri, author of the article which called Pacciardi a "coward" and brought about the first challenge, challenged Pacciardi.

Pacciardi's and Benedetti's seconds met tonight and agreed that the duel between the two should not be held.

The agreement said: "The editorial which provoked the trouble was based on an erroneous evaluation of Pacciardi's speech, which did not put in doubt the gallantry of the army but only said that the technical preparation of the General Staff caused the army's defeat."

Pacciardi, in an interview

with another newspaper, said he challenged Benedetti, owner of the Giornale della Sera, instead of Artieri, author of the offending article, because he considered the latter beneath his dignity.

Artieri made this interview the occasion to send two naval officers as seconds to Pacciardi's home to challenge him.

The Pacciardi-Benedetti affair attracted voluminous newspaper space because it involved the most nationalistic and controversial subject in Italy—the performance of the Italian soldier in battle.—United Press.

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Blizzard Hunt Ends In Charges

London, Feb. 24.

A self-described London newspaperman and a beautiful blonde girl-friend were charged today with posing as man and wife in English hotels from which they disappeared after allegedly looting the premises.

The couple received newspaper headlines when they vanished in a blizzard from a Yorkshire resort hotel three weeks ago.

The police, accompanied by hundreds of volunteer searchers in the snow-covered moors, later discovered that diamonds and other valuable articles had also vanished from the hotel.

Wearing a tailored brown tweed coat and fur gauntlet gloves, Winifred Dickens, 30, London secretary, appeared in court hand in hand with clean-shaven, smartly-dressed "Vincent" Owens, 33, who described himself as a journalist, living in Kensington. At the time of their third disappearance (in the snow storm) they had styled themselves Richard Greenham, a real estate agent, and his wife. Police witnesses said Owens had confessed to the robberies and had taken all the blame on himself. The handsome couple for trial on March 3 and permitted bail to Miss Dickens because the police said "other women prisoners had been putting things into her head."

Owens was refused bail. Miss Dickens' alleged statement, read in court, said she met the man as Richard Vincent last October and immediately fell in love. She introduced him to her mother as her fiancé, but she later learned he was married and also found out a valuable ring was missing from her mother's home. "I had a pretty good idea what was going on, but each time I thought it would be the last,"—United Press.

Monarchist Coup Danger

Toulouse, Feb. 24.

The Premier of the Spanish Republican Government, in exile, Senor Rodolfo Llopias, said today that Spain recently escaped a monarchist coup.

In an interview with the Toulouse Radical Socialist paper, "La Democrite," Senor Llopias said: "A little while ago my Government was menaced by the possibility of a monarchist coup d'etat in Spain. The danger still has not been entirely avoided."

He added: "We in the Republican exile Government want all the Spanish people themselves to choose a form of Government which suits them. In order to reach this goal, one of the first jobs of my Government will be to coordinate the Spanish resistance movement inside Spain with the Government in exile."—United Press.

WAVELL'S TONGUE NOT TIED

London, Feb. 24.

Viscount Wavell is at liberty to make any public statement he may wish on the termination of his tenure as Viceroy, "subject to the normal limitations applicable to a person holding high office in the state," declared the Prime Minister in a parliamentary answer today.—Reuter.

BUDGET CUT

Washington, Feb. 24.

The Republicans slapped a limit on the Senate debate in an effort to force a showdown on Wednesday on the House-approved plan to cut President Truman's 1948 fiscal budget by \$86,000,000, after shutting down two Democratic moves to delay the vote until April.—United Press.



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AGREEMENT TO DISAGREE ON AUSTRIAN TREATY

London, Feb. 24.

The economic clauses of the Austrian treaty were taken at a gallop at this morning's session of the special deputies for Austria.

Proving to be easily the most controversial section of the treaty, the articles in question were rapidly disposed of on the basis of almost total disagreement and in this form they will go forward to Moscow.

Tomorrow the deputies for Austria hope to hold their last meeting.

As expected, the most controversial sections proved to be the definition of German assets in Austria and compensation to be paid by Austria for United Nations property. On the question of German assets, formal drafts from Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States, which were tabled today, are to be sent to Moscow. There is also a

fourth informal French proposal.

Britain wishes to limit the German assets which must be handed over by Austria to the Allies to two categories—property which was German property before the Anschluss and property voluntarily handed to German nationals after the Anschluss.

Soviet Attitude

The Soviet wishes to include property seized by German nationals after the union and

property developed by German capital and labour.

M. Fedor Gusev, accused the British deputy of failing to base his standpoint on the Potsdam agreement.

Lord Hood asserted that the British draft does refer to the Potsdam agreement and General Mark Clark indicated that, in the United States view, the trouble arose in interpretation of the Potsdam agreement.

General Mark Clark said that in the past 18 months, he had seen much misinterpretation of the Potsdam agreement by the Soviet Command in Austria.

Differences

On the question of compensation to be paid by Austria for United Nations property, which cannot be restored in its original form, the chief difference of view is between the United States and Britain. There is no Soviet draft on this question. The British, French and United States drafts are being forwarded in unagreed form. The British draft urges that compensation be paid to the extent of two-thirds of the sum necessary at the date of payment to purchase similar property or to make good the loss.

The Soviet deputy criticised this obligation on the ground that it would prove to be too heavy but did not indicate what rate the Soviet Union would favour.

The United States in a com-

plexed legal draft has in effect urged that the principles applied to the liquidation of a bankrupt company, should apply—sums available for compensation should be shared out between the interested parties in proportion to the interests involved.

Austrian Alarm

Competent Austrian authorities assess that the sum which would be payable, if the British proposals were adopted, would be £40 to £50 millions.

There is also a strong feeling in Austria that the claim for compensation comes ill from Britain who recognised the annexation of Austria by Germany at that time.—Reuter.

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MURDER OF MASTER

Schoolboy Admits Shooting

Stafford, Feb. 25.—Ten teen-age boys at an approved school in Staffordshire today confessed to slaying their Assistant Master and plotting the murder of their Headmaster because they were "fed up" with school.

The alleged confession, made by the youths' ring-leader, said that after the two murders the boys planned to steal a school supply and escape in a stolen car.

The ten boys, aged 15 and 16, appeared at a preliminary hearing today on charges of murdering William Fieldhouse, 21, their Assistant Master in the locker room of St. Andrew's Park, an approved school, on Feb. 15.

All were dressed in pyjamas and black shoes and they lined up behind their attorney, Mr. J. H. Dawson, and silently watched the proceedings.

Their eyes turned to their Headmaster, T. Dawson, and members of the school staff as the alleged confession described the murder plot against Dawson.

Fled In Storm

Dawson never wavered as he heard the prosecution, Mr. J. H. Dawson, describe his plotted murders.

Parham said he had thought of his plot against Dawson since he was 12 and was frightened by the Fieldhouse shooting and fled into a snow storm. The police rounded them up a few hours later near a railway line.

The alleged confession was interrupted by the defense who said the boys were not guilty before making the statement. The court decided to postpone further reading of the statement until later.

The prosecutor said the ring-leader actually pulled the trigger but the other nine also were guilty of murder because they planned the crime together and all ten witnessed the actual shooting.

Three Shots

Parham, quoted one of the boys as saying he was in the school bath room when Fieldhouse entered and asked him what was going on. The boy allegedly replied "What does it look like?" and pulled the trigger. Parham said the boy admitted the first shot missed so he shot twice again as Fieldhouse fell.

The alleged confession, until interrupted, said "I am speaking for the lot and telling the truth. We made it up last Tuesday. We got fed up with school and planned to shoot the Headmaster. The ten of us, we were going to steal the Headmaster's car and school money and get away. Two of us could drive."

Parham said to carry out their plot the boys stole ammunition and rifles from the school's O.T.C. armory.

O.T.C. Sergeant

The prosecution said the boys originally plotted to "disable" Dawson and kill Dawson.

Dawson told the court the school was under the jurisdiction of the Home Office.

The boys were between 14 and 15 but the accused ring-leader was one month short of 17.

Dawson said the ring-leader served as a platoon sergeant in O.T.C. training and was leader in all school activities as well as being in the soccer team.

The Headmaster denied any involvement given the boys might have caused them to plot his murder. He admitted pocket money had been stopped on one occasion but denied their sweets ration had been stopped. He said it was even to them on Wednesday instead of Sunday of the same week that pocket money was refused.

At Dance

A 15-year-old schoolboy witness said he had told him of the plot three days earlier. He said it was to come off during the school's meeting on Friday but the meeting was not held so the boys told him the Headmaster's murder would occur during the dance on Saturday at which time Fieldhouse would be knocked out.

Dawson explained that approved schools train youths sent there by the juvenile authorities for minor infractions of the law. He said approved schools gave far milder treatment to students than the Borstal Institution where hardened juvenile cases receive the strictest discipline.—United Press.

SO THAT'S WHAT WE ARE

London, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Elizabeth Amy Parham, fined £60 at Sittingbourne yesterday on charges of harbouring German prisoners of war and being intimate with them "because I loved for company and affection," gave the "Daily Mail" a reason.

Englishmen, she said, are "undernourished, under-sized and under-everything."—United Press.

At about seven o'clock last night, a small fire broke out in the roof of a restaurant at No. 17 Wellington Street. One fire engine was sent from Central Fire Station and the fire was soon brought under control.

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Leakage Of Army Secrets

London, Feb. 24.—"Leakages of secret military information which became the basis of articles in the Communist press" was the reason given in the House of Commons today for the searching of the kit of Captain M.B. Jones, R.A., India Command, last month.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, Under Secretary for India, who stated this, was replying to Mr. Tom Driberg, (Lab.) who had asked if he was aware that "at 6 a.m. on January 14 an officer of military intelligence who travelled specially from Calcutta and returned there the same day, searched the kit of Captain Jones, against whom an offence was alleged, read his personal letters, perused his books and removed private property, including eleven letters, a photograph, a used cheque book and a bullet programme."

Mr. Henderson added that the adjutant of the unit was present throughout the interview and the officer, on being invited to show papers in his possession, agreed to do so. Any expenditure incurred would fall on the Government of India.—Reuter.

'Sai On' Disaster Findings

(Continued from Page 1)

We have no direct evidence of the actual beginning of the fire, but several witnesses described it as a red glow within a few inches of the deck and along the side of the ship, a small table or cupboard which might have been part of a passenger's baggage.

Fire Heat

We have no reason to disbelieve the evidence of others who described the lower flumes as being blue in colour tinged with green and generating a fierce heat with white upper flames.

Although cargo in the vicinity consisted of bales of raw cotton, bales of paper, smoked rubber sheets, gunny bags, carbon sticks and the like we accept the view that no substance shown on the manifest or a combination of such substances would occasion spontaneous combustion or rapid combustion until well alight. We are very much impressed by the suddenness of the outbreak the fierce heat in the very early stages the first colour of the flames and the extreme rapidity with which the fire spread, for these reasons we are satisfied that the possibility of incendiarism cannot be ruled out.

It is our considered opinion that due to the particular arrangement of the cargo on that projected voyage, and the fact that the largest clear space for passengers was right at the fore end of the one place which would, by spreading, quickly and effectively cut off, all easy exit from the vessel for both stairways to the deck above would be shut off in one or two minutes and access to No. 4 cargo port would become almost immediately impossible.

The fact that passengers endeavoured to collect their baggage would add to the congestion.

Exits Adequate

We have made a most careful investigation of the position with reference to grilles and cargo ports; and there is no doubt in our minds that all grilles in passenger spaces were open except those which were permanently closed and that the available exits were sufficient for the number of persons on the deck at the time. All cargo ports on the off or port side were closed and locked, but Nos. 2 and 4 on the wharf side were open. We are satisfied that even if all the cargo ports were closed, the means of exit by stairways were adequate and that satisfactory passageways had been left to these stairways.

We can offer no comment on the practice of closing the off cargo ports, but it is noted that the side had been open it is possible that a number of persons could have escaped by jumping into the harbour.

We strongly deplore the practice of carrying passengers on top of the cargo and in the opinion we are convinced that the clear deck space was insufficient for the number of passengers on the deck at the time. We are not prepared to accept passageways between cargo as clear space, and it is noted that the cargo was carried on the main deck a total of 1018 persons that he accommodated there with a reduction of one passenger for each 100 superficial feet occupied by cargo.

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TIMOR CLASH

Datavio, Feb. 25.—Advice arriving today from Timor said a group of six Portuguese soldiers and 25 civilians had clashed with Dutch troops near the town of Atampaca on the border between Portuguese and Dutch Timor.

The advice did not indicate the cause of the clash and did not say whether there were any casualties. Dutch military authorities declined to comment.—Associated Press.

M.C.C. Batsmen Shine

Sydney, Feb. 25.—Superb batting by Hutton and Compton provided a grand spectacle on the fourth and final day of the M.C.C. match against New South Wales, but heavy rain at tea-time brought the match to a sudden end with a draw when the tourists were making a great bid for victory.

They were set to score 339 runs in their second innings in four hours. Mainly through Hutton and Compton the score was 205 for three wickets at tea with an hour and three quarters left when rain took a hand.—Reuter.

K.B.G.S. BOWLS

The usual monthly "Wapping" competition of Kowloon Bowling Green Club will be held on Saturday, at 3.15 p.m. Bowlers in the Colony are invited to this event, which will be held in the evening, and will be a most interesting and profitable one. Bowlers are asked to have their names in by 3.00 p.m. on the day of play.

Unfit To Plead

Following medical evidence to the effect that accused would not be able to understand or follow the proceedings owing to his existing mental condition, the jury empanelled yesterday returned a verdict of insanity and unfit for trial against Li Sang, 35, charged with murder.

Li was ordered by Mr. Justice E.H. Williams, Puisne Judge, at the Criminal Sessions to be detained in the Mental Hospital at His Majesty's pleasure.

Li was accused of having murdered Hon. Sang, 23, watchman, as a result of a shooting incident on the Peak on the night of Oct. 30, last.

Mr. A. Lansdale appeared for the Crown. Mr. Charles Losby, instructed by Mr. A. S. Comber, represented the accused.

Dr. G. H. Thomas, Government medical officer, said Li had been under his observation for two periods, once in Dec. last year, and the other in Feb.

Dr. Thomas said he found Li very unconcerned and the blankness of his mind made him unable to follow conversation.

To Mr. Losby, witness stated he was certain that accused would not be able to follow any witness or to challenge any witness or to follow the proceedings.

Dr. Yee Choh Guan-ng, medical officer in charge of the Mental Hospital, stated that he was, as a result of a long observation of Li, quite certain that Li would not be able to understand or follow the proceedings.

MAJOR RAIL DISASTER

(Continued from Page 1)

Most of the victims were hungry Tokyo residents going into the country to plead with farmers to sell them food.

American officers from the Eighth Army headquarters in Yokohama said there were no Americans riding on the train.

Eight Army investigators blamed spreading of the rail on the curve, causing the last four coaches to snap off like the end of a whip.

Standing on the embankment, which runs through a wheat field where the bodies of victims were laid out in two neat rows, Yoshinori Nakamura wiped his eyes with the back of his hand and described the accident as "ghastly."

Nakamura, a railway worker, was riding in one of the fatal coaches.

Like A Bomb

"We were riding along with no thought of disaster when all of a sudden there seemed to be a terrific pressure on us and the people in the packed cars started screaming," Nakamura said. "It was just like a bomb explosion. For an eternity nothing happened, then came a sickening crash and I was knocked out."

"I came to quickly and found the coach was on its side, and managed to climb out of a window along with other passengers who were fighting and stepping on each other in an effort to escape."

Nearby farmers who rushed to the scene said they were attracted by the screams of the wounded and dying, but could not do anything to help any of those who were injured.

Japanese fire brigades, nurses, policemen and a group of women from the Kanagawa Ladies Association rushed to the fatal curve. A hundred and fifty American soldiers from nearby Johnson Field were dispatched to help with lifting of the debris to recover bodies.

Slowly the work has gone ahead to clear the bodies from the wreckage.

The Japanese authorities have notified relations of those who were aboard the train to come and identify their kin.

As night fell, some of the dead were being drawn home on bicycles, carts, on hand-pushed stretchers and in ox carts.—United Press.

NO PERMISSION TO BUILD

Pleading guilty to failure to comply with an order issued on Dec. 10, 1946, requiring him to pull down before Jan. 7, 1947, an illegal structure at No. 3, Jardine's Bazaar, Yip Wah, Manager of the Ngai Sang Co. was fined \$100 by Mr. J. H. Williams, Puisne Judge, at the Criminal Sessions today.

The structure, which was a two-story building, was found to be an illegal structure and was ordered to be pulled down.

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Sub. Flotilla's Seventh Yachting Win

There was a complete change in the weather conditions for sailing last weekend from the previous weekend, and there was warm sunshine and light variable winds. There was a small attendance on Saturday and there were two races, one in which the Submarine Flotilla won the second of the three races.

DINGHIES

Place Boat Helmsman & Crew Time

1st Commodore H. (Skelton, Mrs. Selwicks) 1.48.42

2nd Duke of York (McCormick, Bouter) 2.02.20

3rd Black (Howard) 2.50.22

Duke of York 1st and Adamant IV did not finish.

STARS

Place Boat Helmsman & Crew Time

1st Daphne (Vernon) 1.57.00

2nd Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

3rd Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

TEAM RACES

On Sunday the wind was very tricky in the morning veering between East and West and on the whole rather spoilt the effect of the team races by making the race more a matter of chance than of skill.

Mr. Rouse's team, defeated Tamar and Dockyard team, and 4th Submarine Flotilla had their seventh successive victory by defeating Messrs. Jardine-Matheson team. Both these events took over three hours to complete, most of which was spent in waiting for the wind to revive over by Kowloon side. Detailed results of these two races are as follows:

Mr. Rouse's team v. Tamar & Dockyard

Place Boat Helmsman & Crew Time

1st Daphne (Vernon) 1.57.00

2nd Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

3rd Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

THE POSITION IN THE LEAGUE

Place Boat Helmsman & Crew Time

1st Daphne (Vernon) 1.57.00

2nd Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

3rd Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

4th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

5th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

6th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

7th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

8th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

9th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

10th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

11th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

12th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

13th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

14th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

15th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

16th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

17th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

18th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

19th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

20th Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

21st Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

22nd Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

23rd Duke of York (Howard) 2.02.20

Services Athletic Meet

An athletic meeting between 3 Commando Brigade and the Rest of the Services will be held on Wednesday, March 5, at Caroline Hill, by permission of the South China Athletic Association.

The meeting is being organised by the Combined Services Athletic Association recently formed to promote Service athletics in the Colony. This is the first meeting of the Association, of which Lieut. Col. Bruce, of the Buffs, is the new President.

It is also intended to hold a triangular contest on March 12 between teams from Combined Navy and Royal Air Force, an Army team and a Royal Marine Commando team.

If these meetings are a success, it is hoped to hold other meetings at which there will be a number of events open to non-service athletes.

Clubs desirous of arranging matches with the CSAA are requested to communicate with Lieut. E. L. Marsh, B.M., Hon. Secretary at Gun Club Hill Barracks.

Training nights are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at Caroline Hill and at the Gun Club Hill Football ground. Athletic equipment may be drawn by personnel of any service requiring it at Murray Barracks and Gun Club Hill Barracks.

INTER-STATE CRICKET

Brisbane, Feb. 24.—South Australia, 224 and 204 for eight, are in danger of losing their Sheffield Shield match with Queensland, who have scored 335 in their first innings. Noblett took four for 68 in Queensland's innings.

The only bright feature of South Australia's second innings was a partnership of 68 in 70 minutes by Dooland and James. The latter scored 61 in 169 minutes.

Ron Hamence, who is included in Australia's Test team, did not bat in a Test player in scoring 20.—Reuter.

NEW FOOTBALL RULING

Glasgow, Feb. 24.—In order to meet the Government's request to avoid mid-week football wherever possible, the Scottish Football Association and the Scottish League today decided for the first time in the history of Scottish football to introduce rules ensuring the finality of one game.

All Cup ties until the end of the season will play an extra 20 minutes if the scores are level after 90 minutes. If the scores are still level, play will continue ten minutes each way until the scoring of a goal terminates the match.—Reuter.

TOO MUCH OF AN OVATION?

Lafayette, Indiana, Feb. 23.—Two were killed and more than 200 injured when a stand holding the grandstand operators collapsed during a basketball game between Purdue University and the University of Wisconsin today.

The wooden stand was a new structure and collapsed at the end of the first half of the game when some 4000 male and female students rose to their feet in an ovation to the home team which had just recovered the lead. There was no panic as hundreds rushed to their aid.—Reuter.

DAVIS CUP TEAM

Melbourne, Feb. 24.—Australia's Davis Cup team to meet Canada in the sole American Zone match was announced today as follows:

John Bromwich, Colin Long, Diny Falls and Geoffrey Brown. The team will also play in France and at Wimbledon on a European tour. The players will be accompanied to Europe by the Australian woman champion, Mrs. Nancy Wynne Bolton.—Reuter.

SOCCER

The replay of the semi-final between St. John's and St. Patrick's will take place this afternoon at Cavendish Park at 3 p.m.

Principals and substitutes for both teams will be named at 2 p.m. at Cavendish Park.

The match will be officiated by Mr. J. H. Williams, Puisne Judge.

The match will be a most interesting and profitable one.

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